

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 32-35 are currently pending and are each amended by the foregoing amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that support for amended claims 32-35 is self-evident from the originally-filed disclosure, including Figures 7 and 27, and the specification at page 31, lines 3-6. Thus, no new subject matter is introduced by these changes.

The Office Action rejected claims 32-35 under obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of co-owned U.S. Patent No. 6,798,976 to Tsumagari et al. (“976 claims 1-4”).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Each of amended claims 32-35 recites, among other features:

...an object recording area configured to store an object which has a plurality of object units each including video data or audio data of recorded contents corresponding to a program;

...an area included in the entry point information area configured to store primary text information, wherein the primary text information describes an entry point that marks a position to enter within the program...

...the management table area is configured to store a character set code and identification information of the control information,

the another character set is defined in the character set code in the management table area, and

the character set code can be set as ISO 8859-1 code or Shift JIS Kanji code.

The above combination of features is not recited in any of ‘976 claims 1-4, and Applicants further submit that amended claims 32-35 are not an obvious variation of any of these claims.

For example, none of ‘976 claims 1-4 recite “an area included in the entry point information area configured to store primary text information...[that] describes an entry point that marks a position to enter within the program.” Also, none of the ‘976 claims 1-4 recite that “the character set code can be set as ISO 8859-1 code or Shift JIS Kanji code.” Further,

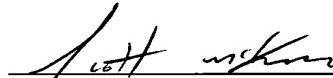
these features do not provide merely slight differences in scope between amended claims 32-35 and '976 claims 1-4, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not conclude that the present invention defined by amended claims 32-35 are obvious variations of '976 claims 1-4.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, amended claims 32-35 are patentably distinct from claims 1-4 of the '976. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 32-35 under obviousness-type double patenting.

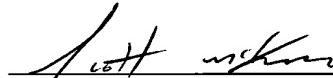
Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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